

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part claiming the benefit of priority from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/021,331, filed on February 10, 1998 and allowed to issue on ~~November 22, 1999~~ July 18, 2000 (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,074), and is related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/476,758, filed on January 3, 2000, entitled AUGMENTING INFORMATION BY DYNAMIC INSERTION OF HYPERTEXT LINKS, which claims the benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/114,712, filed on January 4, 1999, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/524,046 ~~(to be assigned)~~, concurrently filed on March 13, 2000, entitled SYSTEM FOR HANDLING CLIENT/SERVER TRAFFIC AND COMMUNICATIONS PERTAINING TO INSERTION AND UPDATING OF HYPERTEXT INFORMATION, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in full in this document.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 2, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Many web users currently find a large number of existing web pages to be lacking in hyperlinks. Therefore, in addition to retrieving the hypertext script for a desired web page, it would be desirable to provide the capability to modify the original hypertext script to offer additional hyperlinks and functionality. One such invention which provides the foregoing desired capability is disclosed in the co-pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/021,331, now U.S. Patent No. 6,092,074. As disclosed therein, that particular invention is a method and apparatus for automatically providing additional hypertext anchor codes and destination addresses for a pre-existing web page. That invention, among other things, modifies the underlying hypertext script to produce an annotated version of the pre-existing web page that includes additional hypertext links and other functionality.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 5, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The annotation process takes place as follows. An "Annotator" first parses the text of the original web page and identifies certain keywords or character strings for subsequent annotation. The Annotator then matches the keywords or character strings in the web page

text with predefined words in a database. Additional hyperlinks and other related information associated with these keywords or character strings are then retrieved from a database and passed onto a user computer, in particular, a browser on the user computer, to allow the user computer to incorporate and display the additional hyperlinks and related information in a modified web page. An important end product generated by the Annotator is additional hypertext information that can be incorporated to form a modified hypertext script which allows a browser to display the annotated web page having the added hyperlinks and functionality. In a preferred configuration, the Annotator does not directly access the databases containing the predefined keywords or character strings and their associated additional hyperlinks and other related information. Instead, during startup of the Annotator, copies of those databases are loaded into a memory storage area which can be more efficiently accessed by the Annotator. Those databases are updated on a regular basis by computer programs designed to "crawl" the Internet for the latest contents and information. The process of annotating a pre-existing web page to provide additional hyperlinks and functionality is further described in detail in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/021,331, now U.S. Patent No. 6,092,074.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 6, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As previously mentioned, the Annotator 22 is a software program that is capable of providing hyperlinks for a web page on a dynamic basis. The Annotator 22 may receive as input a hypertext script, preferably in HTML format, which can be used to accordingly generate the original web page. The hypertext script is then modified by the Annotator 22 to include hyperlinks which are displayable in the annotated web page. The modified hypertext script may be outputted in XML format. The details regarding the features and operations of the Annotator 22 may be found in the co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/021,331, now U.S. Patent No. 6,092,074.